Meet the women of the Utah Jazz

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Malone Best-Known Utahn — Rest Go Down the Hatch

BY BRANDON GRIGGS
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The Utah Jazz's all-time scoring leader. MVP of the National Basketball Association. And now the most famous Utahn ever?

There is little doubt who Utahns feel is their most illustrious resident, according to the adjacent *Salt Lake Tribune* poll taken Thursday.

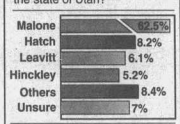
And outside the boundaries of Utah? Could well be Malone, too.

Sen. Orrin Hatch may rule Utah politics and Robert Redford its stable of screen stars, but when people in other parts of the world are asked to name well-known Utahns, Malone is mentioned more often than anyone — even Brigham Young, the man who 150 years ago led Mormon pioneers into what now is Utah.

■ Malone a source of inspiration B-1

Tribune Poll

Q Considering all areas, who is Utah's most famous person outside of the state of Utah?



± 5.5% margin error
328 adults polled in Davis and Salt Lake counties
Valley Research on May 22, 1997

In random telephone interviews, *The Tribune* asked dozens of people in other states and overseas which famous figures they associate with Utah. A handful of names emerged: Hatch, Redford,

See MALONE, Page A-4

Message From the Tobacco Meetings:

Kid, Drop That Cig

BY MARK CURRIDEN
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Tobacco companies have agreed to reduce the number of cigarettes they sell to teen-agers by 60 percent in the next decade or face "billions and billions of dollars" in penalties under terms of a "global" legal settlement being negotiated by industry, government and private lawyers.

Although a full agreement still hasn't been reached, the industry has signed off on one section that sets a specific timetable for reducing teen smoking. It also requires tobacco companies to pay $500 million a year for anti-smoking advertising and ends all marketing to teen-agers, Mississippi Atty. Gen. Mike Moore, a top anti-smoking negotiator, has told the *Dallas Morning News*.

The teen-age smoking deal also would force tobacco companies to fund programs to help smokers stop and require new governmental regulations that would make cigarettes less accessible to minors and punish states that don't strictly enforce those new rules, he said.

Utah does not permit people to buy or possess cigarettes or other tobacco items until they are age 19. Under state law, it is a misdemeanor for underage people to buy cigarettes or for stores to sell to some-

See BIG TOBACCO, Page A-4

■ Snuffing Teen Smoking

A proposed deal between tobacco companies, goverment and private lawyers includes a call for federal laws to reduce teen smoking. The laws would:

- Ban cigarette billboards.
- Ban character advertising, such as Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man.
- Ban cigarette vending machines in places that allow minors access.
- Require all retailers to pay a licensing fee and stock cigarettes behind their counters.
- Fine businesses that sell tobacco products to minors.

A Changing River, A Changing West

COLORADO RIVER
1st in a Series

Editor's Note: This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Colorado River Compact, one of the most powerful pieces of water law in the West.

BY MICHELLE BOORSTEIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like some divine sculptor, the Colorado River molded the landscape of the West, its muddy waters pounding away over millions of years at rock and earth, from the Rocky Mountains through the deserts to the Gulf of California.

Over the past century, however, the twisting, churning lines of the Colorado have been redrawn by the human hand. People have turned a wild river into ruler-straight channels too weak to reach the sea. Dammed, drained and diverted into canals and underground pipelines, the Colorado now serves Western growth — a plumbing system in the desert for cities with pools and golf courses, and millions of acres of wheat, alfalfa and other crops.

The cost has been high. One of the most managed rivers in the world, the Colorado is also considered one of the most threatened, saltier in some places than the ocean and occasionally deadly for endangered fish and birds like the razorback sucker and brown pelican.

For 20 million people in seven states and Mexico dependent upon the Colorado, the ecological damage is a blaring beacon: the West has asked too much of the Colorado. Now, after decades of viewing the river as a giant spigot, the West is undergoing a river revolution.

States frantically are storing their allotted water underground or trying to bargain with other, less developed states for their shares. Environmentalists are

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■ The call of the wild drew Powell A-12
■ Hearing the voices of the river A-12

INSIDE

Showers over most of state.
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Thousands celebrate anniversary of Hill's Aerospace Museum.
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The Bulls get "Finals Fever" in the home of the Miami Heat.
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After a 17-year absence, an old classic returns — "Coppelia."
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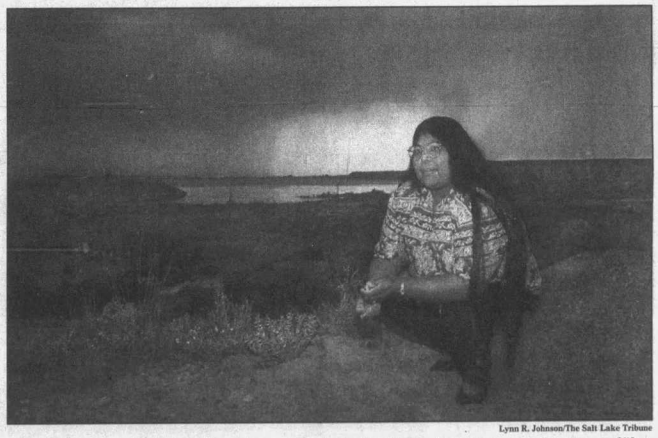


Lynn R. Johnson/The Salt Lake Tribune

Rose Taveapont is a Ute Business Committee member in the Uinta Basin, where litigation has been a way of life.

UNITING THE BASIN

Spirit of Cooperation Pervades E. Utah

BY SHEILA R. McCANN
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

FORT DUCHESNE — Since 1975, judges have revised, reversed, but never quite resolved boundaries of the Uintah and Ouray Ute Reservation in the expanses of eastern Utah sagebrush along the foothills of the Uinta Mountains.

The latest ruling was handed down this month by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. It affirmed the tribe's jurisdiction over lands historically owned by Indians: allotments made to American Indian families at the turn of the century and since sold; acreage given to mixed-blood Utes when their tribal membership was terminated in 1954; land traded away by the tribe to consolidate its property.

■ A patchwork landscape A-13

Today, some of those parcels are owned by non-Indians, others by the tribe. Yet regardless of ownership in towns like Altamont, Duchesne, Neola and Myton, the land remains Indian country.

The Ute tribe has jurisdiction over Indian conduct on those lands and, potentially, use by non-Indian owners. What's unclear is how — or if — the tribe will exercise its reaffirmed power over non-Indians, through taxing or business fees.

Ute Business Committee members see the court's ruling not as an award, but as an affirmation of their tradition-

See UTES, Page A-13

A Tide of Tourists Flows Across the Gulf to Cash-Strapped Cuba, the Island in the Stream

Editor's Note: Salt Lake Tribune reporter Christopher Smith recently visited Cuba. Long known as a communist satellite of the former Soviet Union, the financially strapped country has embarked on a massive tourism push designed to lure visitors.

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD, Cuba — On the dock of a sunwashed marina, a Cuban soldier stands atop a tower dressed in combat fatigues, the brim of his green cap cocked over his eyes and an AK-47 rifle slung across his chest.

You would almost believe he was guarding the island's shores from an attack of the *imperialistas*, citizens of the evil United States that President Fidel Castro so vehemently warns of. You would, of course, if this soldier weren't doing a moonwalk dance, mimicking Michael Jackson's falsetto "Billie Jean is not my lover," gripping the tip of the gun barrel like a microphone.

Such are the two faces of modern Cuba. There is the blustering socialist dogma of an aging Castro

Christopher Smith/The Salt Lake Tribune

This billboard in Havana reads: "Imperialists, we have absolutely no fear of you."

government proclaiming that reports of communism's demise have been greatly exaggerated, contending the fall of the the Soviet Union and Berlin Wall are merely "adjustments" and warning that an American invasion is possible at any time.

Then there are the Cuban people, listening to popular music, watching Hollywood movies, smoking American cigarettes, doing all their business in U.S. dollars and warmly welcoming the incoming American forces. It's not a military invasion, but a stealthier incursion: Tourists.

"Cubans want change," says Juan Antonio Gomez, a former teacher who now earns money clandestinely by guiding tourists in Havana. "The times demand it.

"Besides," a smiling Gomez adds, "we prefer Americans to the Russians. Those Russians, they did not mix with us. They were very strange people."

Visit Cuba and you realize many of the stereotypes Americans believe about this place 90 miles from Key West, Fla. are wrong. For example:

■ *Americans are prohibited from going to Cuba:* No U.S. law bars American citizens from visiting Cuba, and several thousand apparently do each year, either traveling directly by yacht or indirectly via flights from Mexico or Canada. The Trading With the Enemy Act penalizes Americans who spend money in Cuba, with the exception of journalists, academics, official government travelers and American relatives of ailing Cuban citizens.

■ How a Tribune staffer set foot on the island A-2

See CUBA, Page A-13

POOR COPY

Cuba: An Island In a Tide of Tourists

■ Continued From A-1

This is not a big problem, however. Cuban pesos seem merely decorative. Because credit cards drawn on American banks are not accepted and U.S. dollars are the dominant currency, Yankees pay cash for everything, leaving no paper trail for U.S. Customs investigators.

■ *The U.S. trade embargo prevents Cuba from buying American goods:* Imposed by President Kennedy in 1963 to force democratic change through economic sanctions, the embargo today is a joke. Across Cuba, the *tienda* stores always have a wide selection of U.S.-made cigarettes — Marlboro, Camel, Winston and Lucky Strike. Pepsi and Coca-Cola are poured with rum for the famous *Cuba libre* cocktail. Guess? jeans are sold in Havana boutiques. Tourists hosted by Cuba's government tourism agency are driven around in late-model Dodge minivans.

Gregorio Fuentes, 99, called the inspiration for "The Old Man and the Sea."

■ *Cubans are communists:* While schooled in Marxist-Leninist theory, many Cubans are apprentice capitalists, earning U.S. dollars from tourists on the sly as taxi drivers, guides, interpreters or bootleg-cigar sellers. Castro has bowed to popular pressure, allowing Cubans to possess U.S. currency, legalizing self-employment in more than 100 trades and allowing foreign companies to run wholly owned businesses and buy Cuban real estate. Class differences — the enemy of true socialism — are readily apparent among Cubans.

"We don't want a system of all capitalism," says José Yera. "But we don't want all socialism anymore either. We need motivation. Capitalism is a good motivator."

Swapping socialism for tourism, Cuba has flung open its shores in a bid to recover from the end of Soviet subsidies and Eastern European trade markets. Charismatic Castro, able to thumb his nose at every U.S. president since Eisenhower and myriad embargoes, CIA-backed overthrow plots and congressional threats, has resigned himself to the undeniable need for greenback-packing tourists.

In advocating Cuban tourism, he declared: "We must harvest the gold."

And the 1996 crop was $1.3 billion U.S. dollars, according to the Cuban government, delivered by 1,004,336 foreign visitors. It was the first time in the country's history that tourist numbers eclipsed a million. By 2000, Cuba predicts it will play host to 2.5 million visitors who will pump $3 billion into its economy, slowly recovering from the end of billions in subsidies that accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Hopefully by 2000, Cuba will have a few necessities to accommodate visitors, like, oh, toilet paper. Even toilet seats are scarce. And it's easier to find a libertarian here than a bar of deodorant soap.

And Cuba's well-trained but underequipped military is having a hard time adjusting to its dual role of protecting Cuban shores from invaders while welcoming the steady flotilla of foreign yachts that have discovered the untouched Caribbean cruising grounds. It's not uncommon for the *guarda frontera*, the coast guard, to roar up in a gunboat on an anchored yacht at 3 a.m. and board it, searching for stowaway Cubans.

Yet tourism, immigration and customs officials are generally congenial and rarely demand bribes from visitors. Still, tourists discover a few dollars greases the wheel of commerce.

"I was trying to get a flight out of Havana to Cancun and they kept telling me all flights were full until I handed them my passport with a $5 bill in it," says Arthur Mintz, another American adventurer in Cuba. "Suddenly, they found me an open seat."

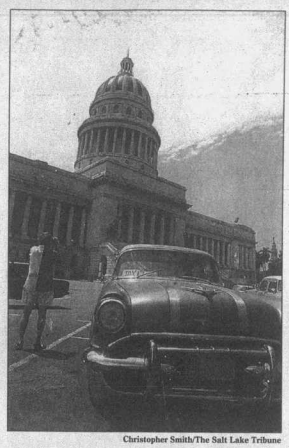
Bob Holder, a shirtless U.S. sailor who docked at Havana on his way to Mexico points to a Cuban customs officer riding an ancient Russian motorcycle and sidecar: "See that motorcycle? It's running on my gasoline. I had to give them gas, they drank all my beer and needled me for about $25 cash just to get cleared into this damn port."

Yet minor graft and a brush with military bravado seems to be much of the attraction of this blossoming Cold War vacation hot spot. Part of the appeal for American blockade runners is that a trip to Cuba means going behind enemy lines. And finding friendship.

"For me, the lure of Cuba is the people — they're a lot different than what you're led to believe in America," says Paul Hendrix, an American sailor who has almost adopted Cuba as his second home. "The Cubans, especially once you get away from Havana, are the warmest, friendliest, most intelligent people I've ever met. They live a simple life, are very happy and content. It's refreshing."

In another sense, a simple life also means a meager life. In Havana, Juan Antonio's wife is a dentist and is paid a monthly salary of $15 by the Cuban government. Other than a doctor ($30 a month) it is one of the highest-paying government jobs in the country.

"You can live on $15 a month in Cuba if all you eat is rice and beans," he says sourly. "I have two daughters. I want more for them. So I have to do this [drive



Christopher Smith/The Salt Lake Tribune

A U.S. car from the '50s blends in Havana with Cuba's Capitol, modeled after the U.S. Capitol.

a taxi and guide tourists] to earn real money, hoping that the government does not catch me and put me in prison."

Government functionaries repeat the successes of the popular revolution like a mantra: free education for all Cubans and socialized medicine.

Cuban youth are indeed educated, but even a university student would be stumped by a simple personal computer. Such technology seems to be nonexistent here.

And free medical service is just that — free service. Doctors and dentists diagnose and prescribe, but can't treat. Pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and prosthetics are terminally "unavailable." To get a crown on a tooth, for instance, usually requires a bribe to a dentist.

The result is periodic panhandling of tourists by Cubans seeking money to buy crutches for crippled children or eyeglasses for an aging relative.

"I'm having trouble affording my medicine," 99-year-old Gregorio Fuentes tells a tourist at *La Terraza*, a bar and cafe in the quaint fishing village of Cojimar near Havana. Fuentes pockets a $10 bill and poses for a photo. American tourists are awed by the grizzled Fuentes, a living link to one of Cuba's favorite sons: novelist Ernest Hemingway, an American.

A lifelong friend and captain of Hemingway's fishing boat *El Pilar*, Fuentes is popularly considered the inspiration for the protagonist in the author's classic *The Old Man and the Sea*. Throughout Havana, Hemingway's likeness appears almost as often as Castro or martyred revolutionary Che Guevara.

Hemingway's villa in Cojimar is preserved exactly as he left it 37 years ago, from the newspapers scattered around the toilet to the graves of his four dogs.

Several bars like the *La Bodeguita* and *El Floridita* claim to be Papa's favorite watering hole; the *Hotel Ambos Mundos* offers tours of Room 511 where Hemingway stayed in the 1930s; the country's busiest tourist port is Hemingway Marina and one of the nicer hotels is *El Viejo y el Mar* (The Old Man and the Sea).

It's said Hemingway regretted that *The Old Man and the Sea* won the 1954 Nobel Prize for literature, cementing his celebrity, destroying his privacy and catapulting Cuba as a popular tourist destination. Before he abandoned Cuba to move to Idaho in 1960, the island was drawing more visitors than any other Caribbean country.

Hemingway frustration that the "real" Cuba was being lost and cheapened by the flood of tourism is a cry echoed today by Cubans and Americans alike. The demise of isolationism, rise of tourism and rumors of Castro's failing health have attracted a new stripe of visitor: the real-estate speculator.

Increasingly, Canadian intermediaries are brokering real-estate deals with American investors poised for the opportunity to develop a country that has essentially been in suspended animation since 1959. At times, the Cuban people seem locked in a deathbed vigil, waiting for communism to die so they can carve up the estate.

Over rum drinks at the bars of Marina Hemingway or the *Hotel Nacional*, veteran tourists tell stories of picturesque 5-acre country farms being sold by Cubans to Americans for $250. More than one south Florida millionaire has looked longingly at the undeveloped waterfront property along Havana's famed *Malecon* drive, dreaming of deals with Hilton and Marriott.

"People in the States, when they find out I sail to Cuba a lot, ask me if I ever see any pirates," says Hendrix. "I tell them yes, I do. They look just like you and me."

First and foremost a populist, Castro himself has presided over yesterday's rise and today's fall of Cuban independence. Credit for the defeat goes not to American military might or congressional hardball, but to the universal desire of people who crave cash for a better life.

"In every country, the people in power do things for their own, they take care of their friends first and the rest of us get what's left over," says Juan Antonio. "The only difference in Cuba is that they call themselves revolutionaries. Now, the rest of us are ready to be revolutionaries."

Utes: Litigation May Be Ending

■ Continued From A-1

al influence. It extends their jurisdiction beyond undisputed trust lands to the broad region governed by the tribe before the turn of the century.

"It's what we wanted," says committee member Rose Taveapont, "and what we always had."

Adds Roland McCook, vice chair of the Ute Business Committee: "All we ever wanted was jurisdiction over our own people within the boundaries of this reservation."

McCook says questions about new taxes or fees "are not answerable" until the state and Duchesne and Uintah counties decide whether to appeal the court's ruling. The deadline for filing an appeal is June 6.

Two decades of litigation over the boundaries have spawned lawyers' bills in the millions of dollars. Both sides are hoping for a resolution, insisting that money squandered in court could be put to better use in the Uinta Basin.

"This is a logical place to stop," says Gov. Mike Leavitt.

Good intentions aside, it will not be easy.

Under the latest decision, determining jurisdiction — who will respond to a burglary, who will collect taxes — hinges on the ownership history of each lot. Homesteaded lands fall under the laws of local and state government. Former Indian lands — no matter who owns them today — are under tribal jurisdiction.

"If this stands, it would require essentially a tract-by-tract search of the whole county," says Duchesne County Attorney Herb Gillespie. "That is really a hassle."

Also upheld under the latest ruling is the tribe's jurisdiction over National Forest lands, and the original boundaries of the resource-rich Uncompahgre Reservation to the southeast.

Despite the ongoing courtroom feuding, state, local and tribal governments have enjoyed increasing cooperation. From building roads to sharing tax revenues and elk-hunting rights, governments and the tribe have been reaching agreements.

"We have worked to cultivate an atmosphere of trust," Leavitt says. "That grows and develops a momentum. I'm very optimistic a [settlement] can happen. We're committed to it."

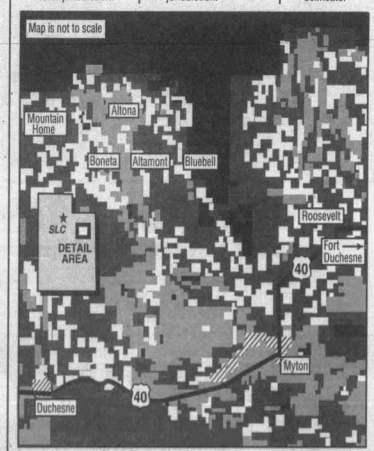
The seemingly endless litigation has led to occasional resentment, Taveapont acknowledges. But she and Business Committee member Larry Blackhair say Leavitt's administration has fostered a new spirit of collaboration.

"We've got something here we can take charge of," says Blackhair.

Jumbled Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction in the Uinta Basin has been cloudy for decades – in spite of rulings from state and federal courts attempting to draw the lines. Under the latest 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, here's the lay of the land:

- Homestead and other land under state and local jurisdiction.
- Tribal trust land and non-trust lands under tribal jurisdiction.
- Jurisdiction too intertwined to delineate.



Source: Uintah and Ouray Reservation Ownership Status Map / U.S. District Court

The Salt Lake Tribune

Indian Country Chronology

■ 1861: The Uintah Valley Reservation, covering two million acres, was created by President Abraham Lincoln's executive order and confirmed by Congress in 1864.

■ 1897: The Uncompahgre Reservation, to the southeast, is opened to settlers and allotments are made to individual Indians.

■ 1902-1905: The Uintah Valley Reservation is opened to settlers at $1.25 an acre, while Indian families were asked to choose their individual allotments. President Theodore Roosevelt also set aside 1 million acres as national forest land.

■ 1945: Land left unsold to settlers inside the Uintah reservation is returned to tribal jurisdiction, about 217,000 acres.

■ 1948: The reservation is expanded by 500,000 acres, including land within the original Uncompahgre reservation, called the Hill Creek extension.

■ 1954: Acreage is given to individual mixed blood Utes when their tribal membership is terminated.

■ 1975: The Ute Tribe enacted a new Law and Order Code, regulating conduct inside reservation lands. After non-Indians questioned the tribe's jurisdiction, the tribe sued in U.S. District Court, seeking a judgment establishing Indian Country boundaries.

■ 1977: Gov. Scott Matheson names a "special study group" to negotiate a solution.

■ 1979: The group hits an impasse over hunting and fishing rights.

■ 1981: U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins rules that land opened to settlers remained inside the reservation, while the national forest lands were outside and the Uncompahgre reservation was disestablished. Indian trust lands were undisputed.

■ 1983: A three-member panel of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled all three areas were outside tribal jurisdiction.

■ 1985: After an appeal, the full appellate court completely reversed, ruling all three areas were inside the reservation. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal in 1986.

■ 1992: The Utah Supreme Court, deciding whether the state had jurisdiction in three criminal cases, decided the land opened to settlers was outside the reservation. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to resolve the conflict.

■ 1994: The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the state supreme court, ruling lands opened to homesteaders were no longer part of the reservation.

■ 1996: Jenkins examines the conflicts between the decisions and sends the case to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals for a final resolution. The state asks the appellate court to reinstate its 1983 decision that all three areas were outside the reservation. The tribe wants the 1985 decision enforced.

■ May 1997: The 10th Circuit says land homesteaded by pioneers is outside the reservation, while these types of non-trust lands remained under Indian jurisdiction: allotments to Indian families but since sold or no longer in trust, acreage given to mixed blood Utes when their tribal membership was terminated in 1954, and land that has been traded away by the tribe to consolidate its property. The national forest lands and the original Uncompahgre reservation also remain in Indian country.

Source: Salt Lake Tribune archives, court filings and decisions.

Lynn R. Johnson/The Salt Lake Tribune

Duchesne County Recorder Carolyne Madsen reviews land titles to the early 1900s.

The *Uintah Basin Standard* last week advised local leaders to stop fighting in court.

"Both sides must be willing to come to the bargaining table ready to compromise, and everyone — Indian and non-Indian, all residents of the Uintah Basin young and old alike — must realize that this is *our* home regardless of skin color," the Roosevelt newspaper urged in an editorial.

An informal meeting between state officials, county commissioners and tribal representatives is scheduled for Friday. Afterward, the governments will have a week to decide their course.

"I hope we can look each other in the eye and say, 'OK, what is the path from here?'" says John Harja, resource planning coordinator for the governor. "If we want to talk about these issues, how do we do it?"

Harja estimates some issues could be resolved within a year. However, he quickly admits, "If you look at the big picture, you can easily get overwhelmed."

No one has drafted a list of specific issues. But the basic operating rules of government must be worked out, sharing or delegating responsibility for law enforcement, taxes, environmental and business regulation, wildlife and zoning.

It's likely any final plan will have to be ratified by the U.S. Congress. Harja says congressional ratification would make the agreement binding on all parties, and would allow flexibility in waiving or sharing jurisdiction.

Larry Blackhair

Such an agreement could lead to new prosperity for the area.

The litigation's financial drain "prohibits you from doing proactive things," observes Sandra Hansen, one of the tribe's attorneys. "What if [the combined legal costs] had been spent on education, social services, economic development?"

Harja believes the stability provided by such an agreement would spur investment by the tribe and encourage new commerce. Businesses want a dependable regulatory scheme and court system to enforce contracts, "and that's what people aren't seeing."

Sen. Alarik Myrin, R-Altamont, agrees uncertainty over jurisdiction has led to caution by business. Yet he adds: "We have one of the best areas in the state — I'd hate to get totally discovered."

If negotiations begin, the state's top priority will be law enforcement, says Harja. "The idea is for us to work out a seamless sense of law and order, who can arrest and which court they go in," he adds.

Such pacts are among the most common of cooperative agreements between tribes and local governments, says Laura West, a lawyer and librarian with the National Indian Law Library in Boulder, Colo.

A common scenario has a speeder racing onto reservation land. A cooperative agreement allows a state, county or city officer to pursue and arrest on tribal land, and a tribal officer to do the same off the reservation.

"Cooperative agreements are becoming the norm because of the enormous cost of litigation," West says. Indians and non-Indians who used to ask, "How can I sue?" are now asking "How do we work this out?" she reports.

Taxes also will be a major issue, predicts Assistant Atty. Gen. Michael Quealy, who has grappled with the boundary litigation for almost 20 years.

Take sales taxes, for example. While Roosevelt's status has been unclear, the state Tax Commission has not been collecting sales tax from tribal members, who do not pay such taxes in Indian country.

Roosevelt sits on homesteaded land and is clearly under state and local jurisdiction. Taxes could be assessed on tribal members — or a more creative revenue-sharing plan could be explored, Quealy says.

A similar solution headed off a 1994 controversy in the oil- and gas-drilling industry. Leavitt and the tribe signed a memorandum of understanding that year, agreeing to work on four issues, and severance taxes levied on oil and gas drilling was at the top.

The tribe had proposed a new fee, which dismayed industry leaders already paying state and tribal taxes. The solution: a bill, sponsored by Myrin, which split the state's severance taxes with the tribe.

The state also resolved a hunting-rights dispute by trading elk permits for permission for hunters to cross tribal land.

Negotiation is under way on:

■ Clarifying jurisdiction over right-of-way land under local streets and Highway 40;

■ Mineral rights in the Hill Creek extension, a 500,000-acre addition to the reservation in 1948. The land was given to the tribe by the federal government, but the mineral rights were not, Harja explains. The state has agreed to help the tribe acquire the rights.

Uintah County Commissioner Lorin Merrell is optimistic and ready to deal. He points to a road running north between Highway 40 and Whiterocks, recently developed jointly by local government and the tribe.

"We've never had a better rapport with the tribe and we don't want to mess it up," Merrell says. "I sold cars in Vernal for 41 years. I always figured there was a way to make a fair deal both ways."

Myton Mayor Ludy Cooper sees the checkerboard when she looks at her tiny town with its mix of paved and dirt roads. Most residents don't think about jurisdictional issues, she says, but she can recite which lots are homestead lands and which are in Indian country.

"Let's just try to work it out," Cooper says. "That's what we should have done in the first place."